

## The Integrated Score

The songs for *The Wizard of Oz* were designed to be integrated into the story, a concept that was daring and ahead of its time in the late 1930s. Arthur Freed wanted song and dance to help define the characters and action in the film, not interrupt them in the fashion of most films and Broadway shows of the time. *The Wizard of Oz* wasn't the first production to do this (the 1927 Broadway musical *Show Boat* was the most noteworthy of early efforts employing an integrated score), but it was a landmark innovation for its time.

One of the most frequently asked questions of any songwriting team is, "Which comes first: the lyrics or the music?" In the case of Harburg and Arlen, Arlen typically wrote a part of the melody first, usually the first eight bars. From this, Harburg often invented a title and then Arlen would complete the melody, after which Harburg would finish writing the lyrics.

Roger Edens (1905–1970), one of M-G-M's music supervisors, designed the blueprint for some of Harburg and Arlen's songs, wrote some of the vocal arrangements, and had even written four songs himself, including one that the Munchkins would sing to Dorothy upon her arrival in Munchkinland. Although none of Edens's songs was used, his initial ideas inspired Harburg and Arlen to develop one of the most unique musical sequences in the film—a miniature operetta that included patter songs and rhymed dialog in a six-minute-long production number entitled "Munchkinland Musical Sequence."

Arlen referred to the first songs written for the film as "lemon-drop songs," those that were light and easy for him to compose. These included "Ding-Dong! The Witch Is Dead," "We're Off to See the Wizard" (originally titled "The Marching Song"), and "The Merry Old Land of Oz" (originally titled "Laugh a

Day Away"). For the Scarecrow's solo, "If I Only Had a Brain," Arlen used a song that had been discarded from *Hooray for What!* titled "I'm Hanging On to You" and Harburg crafted different lyrics for each of Dorothy's three companions: the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion. Each of these three characters got a chance to sing the song, using the lyrics specified for each character.

Since both Ray Bolger and Jack Haley had more screen time than Bert Lahr in their renditions of "If I Only Had a Brain," Lahr was given his own specialty number, the only other solo showcase in the film, aside from Judy Garland's "Over the Rainbow." "If I Were King of the Forest," features Lahr spoofing the posturing baritones he had known in the theater. The style was one he was familiar with; "The Song of the Woodman" (from *The Show Is On*) and "Things" (from *Life Begins at 8:40*) were similar songs from revues in which Lahr brought down the house with his patented, punch-drunk vocal mannerisms.

During development, several songs were dropped from the production entirely, while others were altered or replaced by different songs. One of the songs that



Producer Mervyn LeRoy (left), Judy Garland (center), and director Victor Fleming (holding Toto), on the set of Munchkinland.

MGM/Photofest

was taken out was "The Jitterbug," which was to have been sung by Dorothy and her companions, just prior to being menaced by the Winged Monkeys in the Haunted Forest while searching for the Wicked Witch. The song describes an insect set upon the quartet by the Witch that was supposed to give them "the jitters." Despite the fact that shooting the sequence had already

# Ding-Dong! The Witch Is Dead

Lyrics by E. Y. Harburg

Music by Harold Arlen

Arr. by Tom Gerou

Moderately

*mf* Once there was a wick - ed witch in the love - ly land of Oz, and a

wick-ed-er, wick-ed-er, wick-ed-er witch there nev - er, nev - er was. She

1

2

5

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Play solo part 1 octave higher than written.)

Moderately

RH

LH

*mp*

with pedal

5

2

4

1

9

14

18

23

28

*mf*

*mp*

*rit.*



The Lollipop Kids, during the Munchkinland sequence. MGM/Photofest  
Left to right: Harry Doll, Jerry Maren, and Jackie Gerlich.



"We Welcome You to Munchkinland."

MGM/Photofest

# If I Only Had the Nerve

Lyrics by E. Y. Harburg

Music by Harold Arlen

Arr. by Tom Gerou

Moderate swing tempo

*The Cowardly Lion:*

1

*mf* Yeah, it's sad, be-lieve me, Mis-sy, when you're born to be a sis-sy with -

3

2

3

4

1

out the vim and verve. But I could show my prow-ess, be a

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Play solo part 1 octave higher than written.)

Moderate swing tempo

RH

LH

*mp*

3

6

9

10

12

15

18

*mf*

*mp*

# If I Were King of the Forest

Lyrics by E. Y. Harburg

Music by Harold Arlen

Arr. by Tom Gerou

Moderately

*mf* If I were king of the forest, not

3

queen, not duke, not prince, my re-gal robes of the

Optional Duet Accompaniment (Play solo part 1 octave higher than written.)

Moderately

RH

LH

*mp*

1

3

6

9

12

15

18

*p*

*cresc.*

*mf*

*rit.*